

Message Text

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SUBJECT: GERMAN-AMERICAN COOPERATION IN ASSISTANCE TO
TRADE UNIONS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

*. SUMMARY. AFL-CIO EUROPEAN REPRESENTATIVE IRVING BROWN, ACCOMPANIED BY PATRICK O'FARRELL OF THE AFRICAN-AMERICAN LABOR CENTER (AALC) RETURNED TO THE FRG ON JANUARY 27/28 TO DISCUSS GERMAN/AMERICAN COOPERATION IN DEVELOPMENTAL ASSISTANCE FOR WORKERS IN AFRICA WITH THE GERMAN TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION (DGB) AND THE FRIEDRICH EBERT FOUNDATION (FEF). PROSPECTS FOR COOPERATION NOW APPEAR MORE FAVORABLE. END SUMMARY.

2. BROWN AND O'FARRELL WERE RESPONDING TO RECENT INDICATIONS BY THE DGB AND THE FEF THAT THEY WERE INTERESTED IN COOPERATING WITH THE AFL-CIO IN PROVIDING ASSISTANCE TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. THE AMERICANS BRIEFED DGB AND FEF OFFICIALS ON AALC PROGRAMS IN AFRICA AND ON COOPERATION BETWEEN THE AALC AND THE FRENCH FORCE OUVRIERE IN THE FRENCH SPEAKING AREAS OF AFRICA. FEF AND DGB REPRESENTATIVES REVIEWED THEIR EFFORTS IN DEVELOPMENTAL ASSISTANCE TO AFRICA WHICH ACCOUNT FOR ABOUT 60 PERCENT OF FEF PROGRAMS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. FEF PROGRAMS IN
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AFRICA INCLUDE SOCIAL AND OTHER DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE

PROJECTS AND ASSISTANCE TO TRADE UNION WORKER EDUCATION AND SOCIAL PROJECTS. DURING THESE TALKS ERWIN KRISTOFFERSEN, DIRECTOR OF THE DGB INTERNATIONAL DEPARTMENT, ALSO EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH HIS RECENT VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES WHERE HE PARTICIPATED IN THE GERMAN/AMERICAN CULTURAL TALKS AT HARRISON HOUSE AND MET WITH AFL-CIO OFFICIALS IN WASHINGTON.

3. BROWN AND O'FARRELL AGREED WITH FEF AND DGB PROPOSALS TO FOLLOW UP WITH DISCUSSIONS ON SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND TO ARRANGE ANOTHER MEETING FOR DGB, FEF, AFL-CIO, AND AALC REPRESENTATIVES IN JUNE AT THE ILO CONFERENCE IN GENEVA. BROWN HOPES THAT FUTURE TALKS WILL BE SIMILAR TO MEETINGS IN 1972 WHICH LED TO FRENCH/US COOPERATION IN DEVELOPMENTAL ASSISTANCE FOR LABOR IN AFRICA.

4. THE DISCUSSIONS FOLLOWED RECENT MEETINGS IN PARIS IN WHICH BROWN, O'FARRELL, FORCE OUVRIERE LEADERS AND OFFICIALS OF THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT DISCUSSED CONTINUING COOPERATION BETWEEN THE AALC AND THE FO IN PROVIDING ASSISTANCE TO WORKERS IN THE FRENCH SPEAKING COUNTRIES OF AFRICA.

5. COMMENT. THE FEF AND THE DGB HAVE FROM TIME TO TIME INDICATED AN INTEREST IN COOPERATING WITH THE AFL-CIO LABOR INSTITUTES BUT THEY FAILED TO FOLLOW THROUGH. FOR EXAMPLE, THE DGB AND THE FEF AGREED TO MEET WITH BROWN AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE AFL-CIO LABOR INSTITUTES IN JUNE 1974 AT THE ILO CONFERENCE IN GENEVA, BUT THE FEF BACKED OUT ON SHORT NOTICE. IN THE MEANTIME FEF AND DGB HAVE CONTINUED EFFORTS WHICH IN SOME CASES DUPLICATE THE EFFORTS OF THE AFL-CIO, AND IN SOME INSTANCES THE GERMANS HAVE SUPPORTED GROUPS CRITICAL OF THE UNITED STATES AND ITS DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS.

LAST YEAR, HOWEVER, THERE WERE MORE INDICATIONS THAT THE FEF MEANT BUSINESS. THE RECENT FOLLOW UP EFFORTS OF IRVING BROWN AND THE TALKS BETWEEN CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND SPD LABOR LEADERS WITH AFL-CIO OFFICIALS DURING THE CHANCELLOR'S RECENT VISIT TO WASHINGTON HAVE NO DOUBT PLAYED A SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN IMPROVING PROSPECTS FOR FUTURE COOPERATION IN LABOR FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES BETWEEN GERMANS AND AMERICANS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. END COMMENT
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